DAMSEL ON A QUEST

SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN OFFERS A DARK TAKE ON AN ALREADY GRIM TALE PAGE 8

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Tuesday, May 29, 2012
News worth sharing.

Flanked by his teammates, London Knights goalie Michael Houser hoists the Ontario Hockey League's J. Ross Robertson Cup outside the John Labatt Centre on Monday. The OHL champs spent much of the afternoon surrounded by fans during a homecoming celebration. More coverage, page 3. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Time to heal

Memorial Cup. After crushing loss, London Knights return

JOHN MATISZ
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Just looking into Michael Houser's eyes, you could tell the agony of defeat hadn't even begun to fade after losing a national championship 12 hours before.

"It's still stinging pretty good right now," Houser, the Canadian Hockey League goaltender of the year, said at the London International Airport on Monday.

After Anton Zlobin's overtime goal, the 19-year-old goalie hunched over in his crease with his head down as Shawinigan started celebrating in front of him. His head stayed down as teammates skated by to offer post-game condolences.

But though Houser's season came to a crashing end, he remains irreplaceable to the team.

"If we didn't have Michael Houser, it's not like we might not have been in this situation — it's we would not have been in this situation," assistant coach Dylan Hunter said.

Austin Watson said of the post-game atmosphere in the dressing room: "We kind of all just stared at walls. It's hard to accept, and it's hard to let the feeling register."

Jared Knight, 20, called the loss a "swift kick." Over a four-year span, the Battle Creek, Mi., native has transformed from a boy to a man in the Forest City, a place he considers his second home.

"They treated me like I was a son," the Boston Bruins prospect said of the coaching staff, pausing after each word. "Everyone says this, but I really wouldn't be the player I am today without them."

While the feats of this year's relatively young squad are remarkable, the pain of being a single goal away from national glory isn't sitting well with Knight at the moment.

"When I was on the bench yesterday, I really couldn't believe it," he said. "I firmly believed we could beat Shawinigan."

Hunter, who played six years of professional hockey after the 2005 Memorial Cup, knows the awful feeling of utter disappointment first-hand. He also knows it won't last.

"After a few days, you get the pit out of your stomach," he said.

"You look back and realize what you've accomplished."

Quick hits

- Player Colin Martin said he has received offers to play for Canadian universities next season, but has yet to decide which one he'll take.
- Head coach Mark Hunter on defenceman Tommy Hughes: "He played with a slight crack in his foot. He's a young man who bleeds for the organization."

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– Kyle I. of Vancouver
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Knights fans bid farewell to OHL season with parade

Show of support.
Proud crowd flocks to downtown to cheer team through city procession despite Memorial Cup loss

JOHN MATISZ
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London Knights captain Jarred Tinordi carries the Ontario Hockey League's J. Ross Robertson Cup through the crowd Monday at the Covent Garden Market. Fans were out in full force to show their support for the Ontario Hockey League champions. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

A crowd of about 500 was fixated on London Knights co-owner Dale Hunter as he spoke at the Covent Garden Market, the team's end destination after parading through the downtown streets Monday afternoon.

Off to the side, second-generation fan Paul Crellin could not stop smiling. He stood proudly on top of one of the many picnic tables, a good five feet away from the mob of Knights supporters.

"The Lightning won the basketball title a couple months ago, and now our Knights," he said, still grinning widely as he scanned the horde of people.

Londoners came out in droves to witness players of OHL title fame, while the Knights themselves saluted one of the strongest fan bases in all of major-junior hockey.

After being welcomed inside city hall by a group of bagpipers and staff, the players were greeted by councillors. They then rode about a dozen open-air vehicles for the parade portion of the celebration, turning onto Dufferin, Wellington, Dundas and Talbot streets en route to the market.

"I got off work early, picked him up at school and then headed downtown," Kenny Almeida said, referring to his nine-year-old son, Brandon, whose favourite player is captain Jarred Tinordi for his "good leadership."

Camped out at the corner of Wellington and Dundas was 69-year-old Knights fanatic Dick Szumlinkski. The Montreal native yelled, "We still love you guys" at each passing vehicle.

"It's a tremendous accomplishment," he added. "They won four rounds of the playoffs and the title. Not many sports have a second championship like the Memorial Cup."

Brittany Tivball, 16, donned a signed Tucker Hunter (Dale's son) jersey for the occasion. She said she believes wholeheartedly that the Knights will be in Saskatoon for the 2013 edition of the Memorial Cup tournament.

"I was watching last night, and it was hard at the end," she said. "It's a disappointment, but they'll be back."

Quoted

"We got the best of both worlds this year."
Paul Crellin, Knights fan

For a photo gallery of the celebration, visit metronews.ca

Vladislav Namestnikov is congratulated by fans as he walks through the crowd on Monday. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Exhibition hockey

Flyers, Leafs to play at the JLC

The Philadelphia Flyers are returning to the John Labatt Centre to tangle with the Toronto Maple Leafs on Sept. 26.

It will be the Flyers' ninth consecutive pre-season tilt in London, making the JLC a "home away from home," according to Comcast-Spectacor president Peter Luukko.

The Flyers have met the Leafs at the JLC twice before, notching a victory both times.

Tickets for Leafs-Flyers are priced at $65, $80, $90, and $100 plus service charges, and go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at the JLC box office, Masonville Place ticket outlet, Fanshawe College BizBooth, the Bookstore at Western, and Books Plus. Tickets can also be purchased at johnlabattcentre.com, or by phone at 866-455-2849. METRO

Safety

Speed up sprinkler review: Premier

Premier Dalton McGuinty says he wants to speed up a review of fire-safety improvements in seniors' homes.

The review is expected to take a year, but McGuinty says he's worried about the length of time it will take to complete it.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs says 48 seniors have died in fires since 1980 and McGuinty must act quickly to prevent such tragedies.

McGuinty
THE CANADIAN PRESS

They say they don't see the need for another review when four inquests have recommended that sprinklers be installed in facilities for vulnerable people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two deaths

Man charged after car crash

A 22-year-old London driver has been charged after an early Sunday crash in St. Thomas that killed two passengers.

Brandon Roger Hughes has been charged with two counts of impaired operation of a motor vehicle causing death, among other charges. AM980/AM980.CA

1 NEWS

On the web

Women can't get no satisfaction

Sex isn't all it's cracked up to be, at least for Canadian women. So says a new study that found that women are only "making do." The survey found only 31 per cent of Canadian women actually have an orgasm during regular sex compared to 84 per cent of men. More at metronews.ca.

Evolution debate to be history?

Noted paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey predicts skepticism over evolution will soon be history. Not that the avowed atheist has any doubts himself. Go to metronews.ca to read about Leakey's claim that in the next 15 to 30 years, scientific discoveries will have accelerated to the point that "even the skeptics can accept it."

Mobile news

A new app might prove useful to Canadians heading out this summer on road trips and seeking timely health-related information along the way. Scan the code to read more.

Think safety first during heat, warns health official

Stats. Precipitation is below average with just 17.3 millimetres, according to Environment Canada

ANGELA MULLINS
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Hot, humid and smoggy weather prompted London's first heat advisory of 2012 on Monday — putting the city on track for what could be a long summer.

It's also a sign that weather patterns in the Forest City may be changing.

Last year, the Middlesex-London Health Unit issued its first heat alert May 31 when the mercury hit 31 C. But in previous years, the calendar typically crept into mid-June or early July before alerts started rolling out, said Iqbal Kalsi, the unit's manager of environmental health.

That puts extra pressure on health officials trying to spread the word about heat and safety.

"People aren't really prepared right now," Kalsi said.

His chief advice? If it feels hot — like Monday's high of 31.1 C with heavy smog and a humidex value of 39 C — think safety whether it's spring, summer or fall, Kalsi said.

Precautions include sipping water often, switching off electric lights, eating light meals and talking to your doctor or pharmacist about the heat-related side effects of medicine.

Follow Angela Mullins on Twitter @MetroAngela

Record

31.7 C

Record high for May 28 recorded in 1941.
Source: Environment Canada

Tim Thomas, 30, and Alison Groulx, 24, both of London, cool off with frozen yogurt during a Monday stroll along Richmond Row. Eateries that serve icy treats and cool drinks were booming as people sought refuge from a scorching afternoon high that fell just shy of an Environment Canada record set in 1941. More cool-down options are on the way with the city set to open Oakridge, Stronach and East Lions pools for weekend service on Saturday. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Ornge red flags ignored: Opposition

New documents suggest the governing Liberals ignored warnings from senior bureaucrats about loosening their control over Ontario's troubled air-ambulance service, which is now under a criminal probe for financial irregularities.

When Ontario's auditor general slammed the government for failing to oversee the publicly funded Ornge, the Liberals defended themselves by saying they were handcuffed by a weak performance agreement that they signed with the organization.

But documents obtained by the Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats show the Liberals were warned eight years ago that there were problems with the agreement that created Ornge before it was approved by cabinet.

In defence

- **Hands tied.** Health Minister Deb Matthews, who wasn't in cabinet until 2007, says there was little the government could do to rein in Ornge once the organization went off the rails.

Bureaucrats cautioned the government that its role in Ornge and the amount of control it had over the organization wasn't "sufficiently addressed," according to the documents.

One lawyer in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's legal-services branch said he had "serious concerns about the substance and tone" of the internal application to create Ornge. Yet cabinet approved the agreement and decided to award the contract for air-ambulance services in 2005 to a corporation that was later renamed Ornge.

The health minister at the time, George Smitherman, who signed the performance agreement in 2005, helped create Ornge after a number of coroner's reports and the auditor general urged Ontario to fix its patchwork air-ambulance delivery. Smitherman has blamed health bureaucrats for failing to notice problems at Ornge, saying he didn't see them coming and would regret it.

But the documents show the government ignored the red flags about Ornge for years, said NDP health critic France Gelinas.

"It basically says that they had plenty of warning telling them that we didn't need to go down this path, that alarm bells were ringing that they should pay attention to."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime

More charges in Fleming riot

Another seven people have been charged as a result of the Fleming Drive riot, bringing the total to 61.

Devan Tarsey, 18, of Utopia, and Connor Bird, 19, Jordyn Deviveiros, 19, Ian Ross, 19, Tyler Wade, 18, and Mikail Feaver, 19, all of Barrie, face charges including rioting and mischief. The seventh person charged is an alleged young offender identified only as a 17-year-old from Barrie. Police have laid 147 charges so far and are still accepting tips. METRO

Massage therapy

Getting hands on at Fanshawe

Fanshawe College will launch a massage-therapy program in the fall. Offered in the school of health sciences, massage therapy is a three-year Ontario college advanced diploma that will accept its first students at Fanshawe's London campus in September. Graduates will write registration exams for the College of Massage Therapists of Ontario. The program will be open to approximately 30 students in its first year. Visit fanshawec.ca. METRO

Syrian ally Russia changes tack

Houla massacre. Russia blames both regime and rebels for slaughter

A weekend massacre of more than 100 people emerged as a potential turning point in the Syrian crisis Monday, galvanizing even staunch ally Russia to take an unusually hard line against President Bashar Assad's regime.

Analysts say Russia may be warning Assad that he needs to change course or lose Moscow's support, which has been a key layer of protection for the regime in Damascus over the course of the uprising, which began in March 2011.

Russia has grown increasingly critical of the Syrian regime in recent months, but Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's latest comments were unusually strong. Although he said opposition forces have terrorists among them, he put the blame for 15 months of carnage primarily on Assad's government.

UN-Arab League joint special envoy for Syria Kofi Annan, left, and Norwegian Maj.-Gen. Robert Mood, head of the UN observer team in Syria, in Damascus, Monday. BASSEM TELLAWI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alexei Malashenko, a Middle East expert with the Carnegie Moscow Center, said Lavrov's comments suggest Russia may be backing away from its long-standing support for Damascus.

"Bashar Assad is driving himself and Russia into a corner," Malashenko said. "Bashar has definitely gotten the sense that he may lose Russia's sympathy and he may step back a bit."

It is not clear whether Assad's forces were exclusively to blame for the slaughter of 108 people Friday in Houla, a collection of poor farming villages in Homs province. The UN said 49 children and 34 women were among the dead; some had bullet holes through their heads.

"Both sides have obviously had a hand in the deaths of innocent people, including several dozen women and children," Lavrov said. "This area is controlled by the rebels, but it is also surrounded by the government troops."

He said Russia has no interest in propping up Assad's regime, but wants Syria to guide its own transition under a plan brokered by special envoy Kofi Annan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec, students resume negotiations

Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois responds to questions before a meeting with student associations and the Quebec government on the conflict over tuition hikes in Quebec City on Monday. Student representatives arrived in the city for their first face-to-face meeting with provincial officials since mid-May. They said any solution to the conflict would include two elements: A retreat on tuition fees and on the emergency law, Bill 78. CLEMENT ALLARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reunion

Kids in Mexico meet with mom

Emily Cablek has been reunited with her two children almost four years after they were taken from her, moved around Mexico and kept hidden from public view, authorities said Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Florida cannibalism

Cop in counselling after attack

A Miami police officer was in counselling after he shot and killed a naked man cannibalizing the face of another man."It was the most gruesome thing I've ever seen," said Sgt. Javier Ortiz, who was on the scene of the attack. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Middle East tragedy

Qatar mall fire raises safety issues

Qatar's Interior Ministry said 13 children were among 19 people killed in a fire that broke out in one of the country's fanciest shopping malls Monday, raising questions about building safety in the Gulf state. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lauded

Ad examination wins book award

Bruce Philp has won the National Business Book Award for his examination of the advertising industry, shutting out former media baron Conrad Black.

Philp received the recognition for his book Consumer Republic: Using Brands to Get What You Want, Make Corporations Behave, and Maybe Even Save the World.

The National Business Book Award hands out $20,000 to the winner each year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Internet service

Choices coming to the North

Northern consumers will have more choice for their Internet, residential and cellphone services with two private telecom companies joining forces to expand their footprint in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.

Ice Wireless and Iristel said Monday they will bring competition to NorthwesTel, a subsidiary of BCE Inc.'s Bell Canada that serves the North. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.68¢ US (+0.55¢)

TSX 11,566.15 (-10.32)

OIL $91.15 US (+29¢)

GOLD $1,573 US (+$4.10)

Natural gas: $2.556 US (-7.1¢)
Dow Jones: Closed

Tory bill to end CP Rail strike

Labour dispute. 'The work stoppage is preventing our ability to keep products moving in and out of Canada': Labour minister

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt says the government must act now to end a strike by 4,800 Canadian Pacific Railway workers in order to preserve the country's international reputation.

The Harper government has tabled back-to-work legislation, the third time it has intervened in a labour dispute in similar fashion in the last year.

With legislation introduced after question period on Monday, Raitt said she expects the railroad to be back in business by Thursday. Mediated contract talks between the railway and the Teamsters union representing locomotive engineers and conductors collapsed Sunday.

The union says the company is demanding up to a 40 per cent cut in the earned pensions of employees, after making a $570-million profit last year.

"We've spent out entire careers paying for this, contributing to this and relying on this," said Doug Finnson, union vice-president and chief negotiator. "And because the shareholders want increased value, they want to squeeze it out of our pension plan and then put it over to the shareholders." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Front-office turmoil

The labour unrest comes amid front-office turmoil that saw CP's chief executive officer Fred Green and much of the old company board forced out by an investor revolt, led by New York-based investor Bill Ackman of Pershing Square Capital Management LP.

- The departing CEO, who Ackman accused of running an underperforming company, walked away with an $18-million severance package, a point noted by Liberal House leader Marc Garneau.

Facebook founder's candid cameo

Social-media sites and blogs have lit up after eagle-eyed viewers spotted a surprise cameo in a Chinese TV documentary about the country's police force: Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his now-wife, Priscilla Chan, seen here in this image taken from undated CCTV video. The footage shows the couple wearing the same clothes they were photographed in during a March 27 visit to Shanghai. HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leadership. RIM loses another senior executive

Research In Motion Ltd. is losing another senior executive as its chief legal officer is retiring amid reports RIM may announce a major restructuring this week, a move that could result in thousands of job cuts.

RIM said Monday that Karima Bawa had been in discussions about her retirement for some time and plans to stay on to help with the transition once a replacement has been hired

Bawa's retirement follows the departure last week of Patrick Spence, the BlackBerry maker's head of global sales.

Changes in the senior leadership at RIM follow the appointment of Heins as RIM's president and chief executive earlier this year. Heins replaced co-chief executives Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis after months of pressure from shareholders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jobs

2,000

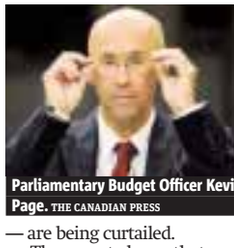
Several reports have suggested RIM will cut at least 2,000 jobs at its operations around the globe as part of a massive restructuring. The cuts would follow a move last year to axe roughly 2,000 jobs. The company has about 16,500 employees.

Watchdog. Restraint pays off for Ottawa, report says

The federal government was well on its way to reducing operating costs even before introducing new austerity measures in March, the budget watchdog said Monday.

The new report by Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page suggests Ottawa is succeeding with its plan to keep a lid on spending as part of the overall plan to balance the budget over the next four years.

While transfer payments to provinces and individuals for such things as health care, old age security and employment insurance continue to rise, most operating costs — which can be more easily controlled — are being curtailed.


Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The report shows that even without the latest initiative unveiled in the March budget to cut operations spending by $5.2 billion and 19,200 public-service positions over the next three years, costs were already coming down. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A PUFF TO EASE THE PAIN

SHE SAYS...
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca/shesays

A few years ago, my father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. I can't really pinpoint the exact date because it took a good two years for my mother to stop referring to his illness as "MS-like symptoms" and actually start saying "MS."

Over time I've watched his ability to walk deteriorate. In 2010 we took a family trip to Cambodia and I saw him scale the temple walls at Angkor Wat from sunrise to sunset. Last weekend I helped him as he struggled to lift himself out of a Muskoka chair.

Sometimes I think about whether my father will be able to walk me down the aisle at my wedding, or whether he'll even be alive to witness it. I then, of course, immediately stop thinking about those things as they lead to crying fits in public places.

The more I'm confronted with the realities of this all-too-common autoimmune disease, the more desperate I'm becoming in my devouring of information about anything that might help.

High Times

"While other parents read DARE pamphlets about the perils of drug abuse to their children, my father enjoyed a monthly subscription to High Times magazine."

Last week, the University of California released a study demonstrating the benefits of marijuana for individuals suffering from MS. The study found that patients who smoked cannabis once a day experienced a significant reduction in muscle tightness and other painful symptoms associated with MS.

As a hippie, my father was practising this form of self-medication a good 40-something years before he was ever diagnosed. The only real difference is now he has a medical-marijuana licence and a copy of the Canadian Medical Association Journal to back him up.

While other parents read DARE pamphlets about the perils of drug abuse to their children, my father enjoyed a monthly subscription to High Times magazine. Marijuana was never an after-school-special kind of conversation topic in my house — it wasn't cool or dangerous, it was just simply there. Consequently, I had no interest in it. After all, what's the point of teenage rebellion if the person you're trying to revolt against is munching on "special" cookies in your living room?

I've never judged him for smoking it and I certainly don't now. Watching him self-medicate his way through this disease has changed the way I think about drugs and pain. In fact, it's changed my outlook on a lot of things in my life.

It makes me want to take the stairs every day, knowing that perhaps one day I won't be able to. It inspires me to run outside even when I'm feeling lazy — not because I should, but because I can.

Weird news

Rest in Presley peace

For the right price, you or a loved one can rest in peace in the tomb of the King.

Celebrity auctioneer Darren Julien is selling Elvis Presley's original crypt to the highest bidder as part of his Music Icons auction later this month.

The tomb is located inside the granite and marble mausoleum at the Forest Hill Cemetery in Memphis, Tenn.

Presley was interred there alongside his mother, Gladys, after he died Aug. 16, 1977. Two months later, they were re-buried at his Graceland home. The original crypt has remained empty ever since.

Elvis Presley's crypt.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Julien says the winning bid from the auction beginning June 23 will receive the crypt, the opening and closing of the vault for burial, a memorialization inscription, and use of a chapel for a committal service. Transportation and funeral-home charges are not included.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bees do it best in clover

NIKKI GAMMANS/HANDOUT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homecoming buzz

The bees are back in Britain

They've been away, but now they are — hopefully — buzzing back to their rightful place in the bucolic British countryside.

Around 50 short-haired bees were released into an English nature reserve Monday, some two decades after they were wiped out from most of rural Britain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wild-flower welcome

"Our farmland always used to have wild-flower borders. We are just asking farmers to go back to the way things were and the response has been overwhelmingly positive."

Nikki Gammans, ecologist and project leader

Betting the farm

- Ecologists hope that with the support of farmers who have agreed to grow flowers and plants that help bees flourish, the bugs will zip across the country again.
- The population of short-haired bees — scientific name Bombus subterraneus — has declined dramatically across most of Europe the last two decades as its habitat was destroyed.

Born to be the Bombus

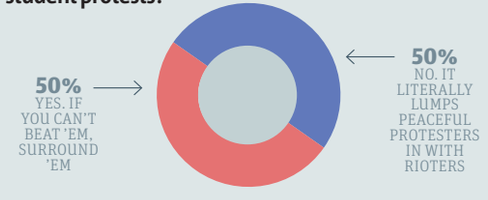
12

Bombus subterraneus were declared extinct in Britain 12 years ago. But the short-haired bees survived in Skane, Sweden, and three years ago, Natural England, a U.K. government-backed conservation project, launched a program to bring them back into the wild. The bees that made it through the screening process were released into the wild Monday in a nature reserve in Dungeness, Kent, in southeast England, filled with wild flowers like red clover, white dead nettle, yellow flag and tufted vetches.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should police be allowed to kettle protesters, a tactic used during the G20 and recent Montreal student protests?



Twitter

@valoasis
Rest in peace, Boots with the fur.

@StirisPres
@GoLondonKnights sending my company home early today so they can pick up their kids & take them to the parade. c'mon #LdnOnt show ur spirit.

@kevinweaver_
I am flying to Houston today for a conference and currently it is warmer in #ldnont than it is there. #hardtobelieve

@RMaitlandW
Just watched a fight at Tim hortons over empties. #ldnont

@Grickle_Grass
We had almost 500 people come out to the children's museum Saturday night. Wow, #ldnont - you rock!

@zacharymadford
Imagine if there was a Taco Bell in downtown #ldnont

@BrandonEedy
Sober Monday... #fingerscrossed

metro

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2
SCENE

Scene in brief

De Niro given honorary degree

As he received an honourary doctorate Sunday, Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro told Bates College graduates that despite his own lack of formal education, he made out OK. During a 15-minute address that was by turns sincere and irreverent, De Niro drew a steady stream of laughter from the 463 graduating seniors and more than 5,000 onlookers at the private, liberal arts college's campus. De Niro, who quit high school to pursue an acting career, was one of three high-profile guests who received honorary degrees at the Bates commencement. PBS Newshour senior correspondent Gwen Ifill and Princeton University molecular biologist Bonnie Bassler also were honoured. But it was De Niro who stole the show as he received an honorary doctorate of fine arts degree. "In many ways, leaving school when I did it was an advantage. I saved nearly $6,000 by not having to pay tuition and expenses for four years of education," he said. "I feel a little foolish, because if I had waited until now not to go to college, I could have saved around a quarter of a million," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Michael Haneke's Amour wins Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or

Kristen Stewart plays Snow White in Snow White and the Huntsman, opening Friday. HANDOUT

Rookie director steps into fairy tale land

Snow White. First-time director Rupert Sanders talks about being handed the keys to Universal's $175 million project

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

In researching his visually distinctive debut film, Snow White and the Huntsman, British director Rupert Sanders avoided one animated classic in particular.

"I actually haven't seen the Walt Disney (Snow White) for ages because I didn't want to be tarnished by it," he says.

"I looked at other filmmakers, like Roman Polanski's Macbeth. I watched Kingdom of Heaven. I think I set out trying not to make a big commercial fairy tale movie, but I wanted to make a big, Lawrence of Arabia kind of medieval tale, and that's really what I think the film is."

But certainly Universal Pictures — which is betting a lot giving a first-time director the keys to a $175 million fantasy film — is hoping for at least in part a big commercial fairy-tale movie.

"Universal have been an incredible partner to work with," Sanders insists.

"First of all, they wrote a massive cheque for a novice to take a lot of their money and go over to Europe untouched and make a film. They've been very trusting."

Of course, part of that trust can be attributed to the Snow White in the title, since the source material continues to be hugely popular.

So what is it about that fairy tale that keeps drawing audiences — and studio executives — back?

"It's the best fairy tale, really. I don't really like them when they get too princess-y. I don't love balls and sleeping beauties and things like that," Sanders says.

"It's one of those stories that is about the human condition. It's about so many of those emotions that we go through — jealousy, the way we look," Sanders says.

"I think in a way it's more relevant today than it was. Everything is so image-obsessed… I hope it has the same lesson in life to our young people. It teaches you a lot about how to cope with the human condition, how to cope with death, basically."

So what's next for Sanders? "I am done with fairy tales," Sanders says with a weary laugh.

So what will he do for a second feature film? "I'd love to make something contemporary or sci-fi, which is my favourite genre. You can make a film that's sociopolitical without it being a rant. You can put a bigger magnifying glass on our world now if you put the story 100 years in the future."

Of course, if Snow White and the Huntsman is a hit, he might not be as done with fairy tales as he suggests. "Who knows. I think it will be hard for me not to go back into the Snow White world if that world appeared again," Sanders admits.

"It's its own story. If there's a desire for people to want to continue with those characters — I think there will be, they're such great characters, they're well-played."

Of course, there's at least one obstacle to a possible sequel to the fairy tale film: "A couple of people end up dead, so I'd have to fill those shoes," he says.

Quoted

"It's the best fairy tale, really. I don't really like them when they get too princess-y. I don't love balls and sleeping beauties and things like that."

Director Rupert Sanders on the enduring quality of the Snow White tale

Updating the story

There's no damsel in distress here

The days of the damsel in distress are clearly over. Audiences have already seen a Snow White take up arms, with Lily Collins dueling with — and besting — her Prince Charming in Mirror, Mirror in March. But in Snow White and the Huntsman, the fairy tale princess (played by Twilight star Kristen Stewart) goes to war.

What really sets Rupert Sanders' film apart — aside from the stark visuals and brutal violence — is its take on the core theme of beauty and a woman's obsession with it. Even in the Brothers Grimm version, the Queen is threatened by Snow White's natural allure, but Sanders takes it even further. Charlize Theron's evil Queen Ravenna stays young and beautiful by sucking the life out of younger women, and she's hoping to cure her aging problem for good by consuming the heart of her stepdaughter.

Full of imaginative and nightmarish visual effects, massive battles and epic landscapes, Snow White and the Huntsman is by far the more ambitious of the two Snow White films — which is surprising, given that the lackluster Mirror, Mirror was helmed by the usually distinctive and daring Tarsem Singh.

DVD reviews

Goon

Director. Michael Dowse

Stars. Seann William Scott, Jay Baruchel, Alison Pill

In the very violent, very funny and exceedingly profane Goon, Canadian-born director Michael Dowse (the man behind the Fubar films) tells the story of a genial knucklehead named Doug Glatt who's a bar bouncer in a small Massachusetts town. When Doug unleashes the fury of his fists in aid of his mouthy best friend (Jay Baruchel, who also shares co-writing credits with Evan Goldberg), he's spotted by the coach of the very minor-league local team (Nicholas Campbell). The wily coach coaxes Doug to play for his brother's hockey team, the Halifax Highlanders, who are sorely in need of a miracle. Doug's only task is to beat up anyone who stands in the way of the Highlanders' top scorer, who has recently lost his mojo. Sweet-hearted Doug, well played by Scott, is proud to both draw and spill red on behalf of his team. Goon looks set to skate alongside Slap Shot as another movie that really gets the spirit of hockey's animal attraction.

PETER HOWELL

We Need to Talk About Kevin

Director. Lynne Ramsay

Stars. Tilda Swinton, John C. Reilly, Ezra Miller

Adapting Lionel Shriver's bestselling 2003 novel, director Lynne Ramsay examines the school shootings phenomenon from the point of view of parents left emotionally and physically brutalized by the aftermath. Travel writer Eva Khatchadourian (Tilda Swinton, spectacular) and her photographer husband Franklin (John C. Reilly, skating) thought they'd left all their cares behind when they moved from New York City to a big house in the suburbs. They wanted a place to raise their son, Kevin. Kevin, though fine with his father, has a toxic relationship with his mother. We Need to Talk About Kevin offers few deep insights into a violent phenomenon for which, in truth, there may be no satisfactory answers.

PETER HOWELL

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Beyoncé is human? Hard to believe

MONICA WEYMOUTH
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Radiant new mama Beyoncé was back on the stage for a four-night engagement at Atlantic City's Revel casino over the holiday weekend, and she didn't forget to pack her signature assortment of sparkly two-piece bodysuits and sky-high heels.

But the singer admits it wasn't easy to get in beach shape by Memorial Day weekend.

"Y'all have no idea how hard I worked," she told her audience — which included Michelle, Sasha and Malia Obama — during her Saturday evening performance.

"I had to lose 60 pounds. They had me on that treadmill. I ate lettuce! Now tonight I'm going to get chocolate wasted."

Now, we always thought the rumours that Beyoncé hired a surrogate and faked her pregnancy were crazy (unless it was a particularly slow gossip day).

But can you imagine this lady at a gym or eating anything as lowly as lettuce?

If she is, in fact, human, we're having a hard time believing Beyoncé had a baby in January.

Justin Bieber MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bad Bieber: Did the star lay a smackdown?

Justin Bieber may have finally had enough of photographers.

The singer is a suspect in a criminal battery case after getting into a "physical altercation" with a paparazzo in Los Angeles on Sunday afternoon, according to the police report.

The "victim complained of pain and requested medical attention" and was released shortly after being taken to the hospital.

We're curious: Is there enough money in Bieber's bank account for you to admit that his baby-soft hands were capable of inflicting pain?

Gaga 'devastated' about cancellation

After weeks of protest from a religious group, Lady Gaga decided to cancel a tour stop in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"There is nothing holy about hatred," she posted on Twitter, explaining her decision. "We had to cancel the concert in Indonesia. I'm so very sorry to the fans and just as devastated as you if not more. You are everything to me. I will try to put together something special for you."

The protesting group, the Islamic Defenders Front, insisted Gaga is a "devil's messenger" and claimed that her image would "destroy the country's morals."

They promised "chaos" if the concert went ahead as planned.

Queen of the unexplained exit?

Britney Spears' X Factor tenure is off to a rough start. After allegedly storming off the set after a contestant's rendition of one of her hits the first day of filming — a claim she denied on Twitter — Spears reportedly made another sudden exit on her second day, according to Us Weekly. "After a very popular contestant finished, Brit stood up and immediately walked towards the tunnel where judges enter," a source says.

"Her bodyguards (and entourage) jumped up and ran after her. She was moving fast. It was odd." While the reason for her departure was unclear, the source says Spears returned after a short while and resumed her work as though nothing had happened.

Twitter

@justinbieber
am i about to be doing free shows around the world to surprise fans?? hmmm.

@ActuallyNPH
In the Just So You Know Department: incessantly tweeting me to respond to you will almost assuredly achieve the opposite result.

@Joan_Rivers
I hate that the Indy 500 takes place over Memorial Day Weekend. Name one Civil-War soldier who could drive a race car.

@MissKellyO
Always wear your cutest pajamas to bed you'll never know who you'll meet in your dreams!

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3 LIFE

Skin care

Live Clean introduces Fresh Face

Live Clean, the Canadian brand known for its eco-friendly, plant-based personal care products, introduces Live Clean (Fresh Face), an eight-product collection of eco-friendly skin care products for your face. With five years and more than 60 products since its founding, Live Clean introduces skin care to its exceptional collection of products for hair and body. "We've been thinking about skin care for a long time now and Live Clean (Fresh Face) has been two years in active development," says Executive Vice President Michelle Sparrock. "But just as we did with our baby care collection, we proceeded with caution; wanting to be sure we got it absolutely right." The eight-product Fresh Face collection – including foaming daily cleanser, deep cleansing clay masque, smoothing facial scrub, and refreshing facial toner among others – offers the right product for every skin care need.All Live Clean (Fresh Face) products are made without many commonly used chemicals such as Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS), a common harsh irritant petrochemical surfactant used in most shampoos and skin care products, as well as Diethanolamine. For more information, check out live-clean.com.

METRO

On the Web

When packing a portable feast ensure picnic food is safe by keeping it cold

Imagine a world where you ate right, exercised and had great sex. Unfortunately, the smug and happy are in the minority. Most of us are stressed out, sexually frustrated and regulars at KFC. According to Dr. Oz, getting healthy isn't about living longer, it's about living and looking better today.

DR. OZ'S SEVEN DAYS, SEVEN WAYS TO A BRIGHTER YOU

When for a health check up last? A month? A year? America's top doctor Dr. Oz, talks to Metro about the basic steps to feeling and looking great.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
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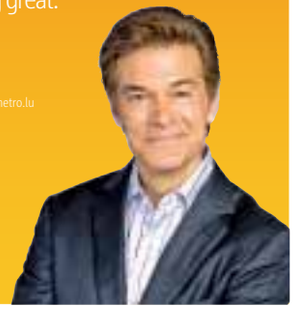

1 What's up Doc?

A staggering third of Americans skip their yearly health check-up. But thinking ignorance is bliss could really mess you up.

Being "too busy" is the most common excuse for failing to go to the doctors says Dr. Oz, but the truth is people don't want to be inconvenienced with bad news.

"Who wants to hear they have cancer? What people don't get is that a doctor is there to guide you to better health, not make you feel bad or embarrassed. They help you understand your health so you can prevent problems in the future."

2 Watch your waist

Everyone should know their weight and BMI (Body Mass Index). Although weight can vary, BMI should always be below 25. Anything above 30 or below 18.5 means you risk developing type 2 diabetes or heart disease.

According to Dr. Oz the most important thing to monitor is waist size: "Waist size predicts the amount of fat inside the intestines: it should be no more than half your height. It's the most dangerous type of fat for your body. Stored in excess, it can put pressure on the kidneys, which can then raise your blood pressure and can also poison the liver, leading to higher cholesterol levels and diabetes."

3 The pressure of peer pressure

Studies have shown that people who lost weight by engaging in group activities were more successful at keeping it off in the long term.

"The moment you go public about your proclamation of health, you're holding yourself accountable," explains Dr. Oz. "Friends won't sabotage your efforts, but on the contrary be inspired by your achievements."

Another thing to watch out for is habits.

"Habits are the 'norm' but whether they're good or bad it is down to you. If your friends eat pizza and drink beer every night, you'll associate this with 'normal' behavior. But if all your friends pick the treadmill over the cheesy crust — will that pizza still taste so good?" asks Dr. Oz. You decide.

4 Get more zzz ...

Sleep is the most important thing we need and the single thing we lack the most: "Seven and a half hours a night is an ideal amount. If you've trouble sleeping it could be a sign something is holding you back either physically or psychologically," says Dr Oz. "If all else fails, try and ease your body into rest. Fifty per cent of people sleep better in colder temperatures, wearing loose clothes or no clothes and having dimmed the lights 30 minutes before going to bed. Heat and tight clothes prevent motion and make you feel uncomfortable."

But what about binge sleep? "Binge sleeping is fine as long as it's done within the week during which you lacked sleep. Done outside of that, it

risks throwing off your body clock and your body will think its been to a different time zone," explains Dr Oz.

5 Exercise: all it takes is 7 easy minutes

Emotionally satisfied people have one thing in common: they all set aside a few minutes a day of "me time," mostly in the morning.

Dr. Oz advises you to spend seven minutes every morning doing a combination of yoga, push ups and sit ups.

"Morning is the one time of day when you are still in control of your destiny. Seven minutes of light exercise is enough to reduce stress levels and make you feel as if you are in control of your life."

Why seven minutes? Don't we have to sweat it out for at least 20?

"We all have seven minutes to spare in the morning. It's also enough time to increase heart rate. If you want to exercise more, you don't have to run a marathon but something as simple as a brisk walk for 30-60 minutes, five times a week can lower your risk of heart disease by about 40 per cent."

6 Assess your stress

Stress alone could be the reason why you can't lose weight. It affects the neuroendocrine system that increases the amount of fat stored around the abdomen. It's also indirectly linked to the consumption of too many fatty or sugary foods, as well as inactivity.

"Some of us are comfortable being uncomfortable. Instead of running away from stress we need to embrace the discomfort. The only solution to getting over it is to come up with better coping strategies that force you to manage your stress such as assertiveness training, or even better — exercise."

7 Mind your genes

You may be healthy, but your genes may say otherwise. Family history is critical in diagnosing and preventing illnesses. A blood relative under 65 years of age is a good reference point. Once you know your weaknesses, Dr. Oz recommends you customize your lifestyle around them. "If your father died of lung cancer at the age of 60 because he smoked, take this as a sign that your genes don't protect you against smoking."

Go nuts

A no-nut peanut butter?

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

A No-Nut "Peanut Butter"?

Yes, you read that right. In each issue of Best Health magazine, we show you interesting products you might not have seen, and this month we found something on grocery store shelves that's great news for anyone with a peanut allergy: No Nuts Golden Peabutter.

It's a spread made of brown peas, and before you think that it sounds gross, I can say that it's actually good, and similar in taste and texture to real peanut butter. (Of course, some people with peanut allergies would be turned off by something that resembles peanut butter).

Besides peas, the ingredients include canola oil, sugar and palm oil. One tablespoon is equal in protein, fat and calories to peanut butter.

What also makes this product great is that it's Canadian. Pea farmer Joe St. Denis of Legal, Alta, was travelling in Egypt when he discovered a love for hummus. Back home, he experimented, making it with different varieties of peas. But he found it tasted more like peanut butter than it did hummus. An owner of Mountain Meadows Food Processing, which sells No Nuts across Canada at grocery chains such as Sobeys and Metro, says "Brown peas taste mild, unlike green or yellow peas. And we don't add flavouring."

For more interesting new products and information on healthy living, check out Best Health, on newsstands now.

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE ISSUE OF BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE, GO TO BESTHEALTHMAG.CA/METRONEWS.

Symposium's mussel dish shines in the lunch spotlight

Mussels Florentine ($9.95). PAUL MITCHELL

LUNCH RUSH
Paul Mitchell
life@metronews.ca

It is difficult for a restaurant to be all things to all people. Symposium might not have figured out its exact identity but it definitely serves great mussels.

Martini lounge, dessert café and coffee shop all describe this impressive location.

The Renaissance-inspired murals and marble tiling represent one of Richmond Row's nicest decors.

I review the expansive menu of premium-priced salads, wraps, pizzas and pastas but the mussels' special is irresistible. An enjoyable window-view occupies me during the long wait.

Much to my delight, aromatic Mussels Florentine ($9.95) arrives steaming hot. Rich pungent Asiago cheese and spinach is offset with lemon acidity.

The 20 orange mussels are tender and meaty and I can not get enough of the broth. Soft, butter-toasted ciabatta bread soaks it up and I hungrily spoon up the remainder.

For incredible European ambiance, and eclectic food and drink, take a vacation at Symposium.

Visiting the restaurant

Symposium Café Restaurant & Lounge

Address. 620 Richmond St.

Phone. 519-667-7000

Rating. 4/5

Price range. $8.95 - $18.95

Reservations. No

Business lunch. Yes

Lunch with co-workers. No

Social lunch. Yes

Tex-Mex Chicken Sandwich. Perfect way to add zest to each bite

1. In bowl, toss chicken with black beans, corn, cheddar cheese, green onion, salsa and sour cream until combined.

2. Divide chicken mix equally among four slices of bread. Top each with avocado, tomato and spinach leaves. Top with remaining bread slices. **MAPLE LEAF FOODS, DEMPSTER'S BREAD/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (FOR MORE VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA)**

Ingredients

4 servings

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) chopped fully cooked chicken strips
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) cooked black beans
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) thawed frozen corn
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) each salsa and sour cream
- 8 slices whole-grain bread
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1 large tomato, sliced
- 250 ml (1 cup) baby spinach leaves

Green space equals a longer life: Study

Lifestyle. People who reside near parks live longer

CELIA MILNE
life@metronews.ca

That is the finding of a large Canadian study that took place over a 22-year span. "Residential levels of green space were associated with lower death rates, especially for deaths from respiratory diseases," says Dr. Paul Villeneuve, a senior research scientist of population studies at Health Canada.

The study took place in 10 cities in Ontario: Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa, Sarnia, St. Catharine's, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Windsor. It began in the 1980s and kept track of about 575,000 adults in those urban areas until the end of 2004, by which time 187,000 of the original participants had died.

The population in the study was randomly chosen from income tax filings. Postal code information was used to follow where people lived, even if they moved over time, and the amount of green space near them was measured by satellite. People in the study were assigned a "vegetation index" according to their postal code.

The study found that people living within a 10-minute walk from green space had lower mortality during the 22 years. This effect occurred regardless of whether air pollution levels were high or low in their area.

These results boost previous research on the health benefits of living near green space: earlier work found that being close to trees, plants and grass reduces stress and headaches, and improves thinking skills.

Quoted

"Residential levels of green space were associated with lower death rates" Dr. Paul Villeneuve, research scientist

Residential levels of green space are linked to longevity. ISTOCK PHOTO

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Walk Starts: 10:00 a.m.

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Putting your pot of gold to work

Divide and conquer. Invest any windfall slowly. You might miss out on some gains but you won't fall into an abyss

YOUR MONEY
Alison Griffiths
money@metronews.ca
Twitter: @alisononmoney

Last week I offered my two cents worth of advice to a woman wondering what to do with a divorce settlement of $20,000. I encouraged her to take time deciding whether to pay down debt, save, spend or invest.

Now I have some suggestions about the latter. Investing a lump sum can be tricky. For instance, an investment made in September 2007 on the eve of the financial crash may still be in the negative.

Divide any windfall into pieces and invest gradually to spread your risk over time. It's far better to miss out on some gains than fall into an abyss.

Alison's money rule

"Investing over time reduces your risk and increases your return."

My choice for most investors is Exchanged Traded Funds or ETFs with very low fees. Most are lower than .50 annually compared to the average Canadian mutual fund fees of 2.25 to 2.5 per cent annually.

These products simply mimic an index like Canada's S&P\TSX Composite. There are also bond ETFs. (ETFs trade on the Toronto Stock Exchange just like shares of a company and you will pay a trading fee to buy units.)

Three ETFs are all you need, one for Canada, one for the U.S. and one for bonds. Here's a small selection among the dozens available.

Don't stress, just pick one for each area and you'll have a nice, well-rounded portfolio. The ticker symbol and management fee are in brackets.

Canada
- Horizons BetaPro S&P/TSX 60 Index (HXT, .07%)

- Vanguard MSCI Canada Index (VCE, .09%)

- iShares S&P/TSX Composite Index (XIC, .25%)

US
-Vanguard US Broad Market Index (VUS, .15%)

-BMO Dow Jones Index (ZDJ, .23%)

-iShares S&P US Dividend Growers (CUD, .60%)

Bonds
- iShares DEX Short Term Bond Index (XSB, .25%)

- PowerShares 1-5 Year Laddered Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index (PSB, .25%)

- BMO Aggregate Bond Index (ZAG, .28%)

Doing a little homework before you invest can really pay off. ISTOCK IMAGES

If, for example, you wanted one-third of the $20,000 in bonds, make that entire investment now as the short term bonds will roll over automatically and take advantage of higher rates in the future.

Divide the remaining $13,000 plus into four to six pieces and invest gradually in the chosen Canadian and US ETFs over the next six months to a year. There will be a trading fee for each transaction but you only pay it once until you sell, and the additional cost balances the risk.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM

Champagne etiquette

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Hello Mr. Butler,
I am going to be hosting an event for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary at my home and I'm in need of some champagne etiquette. What's the right temperature, what kind of glasses should I get, how much do I fill a glass and how do I make a toast?
Thanks!
Nervous Daughter

Dear Nervous Daughter,

What an exciting event! Good champagne should be served cold, so keeping it in the fridge for a few days then on ice at the bar when it is being served is important.

When opening the champagne never point it at anyone and hold the "cage" and the cork tight with a napkin while slowly turning the bottle. You will feel the pressure build up and the cork will pop out easily.

When serving, you can use either a champagne flute or saucer, though the "fashion" of today is flutes.

When you pour champagne, it foams up (just like pop) so pour slowly and just a small amount in every glass — this is called "priming" the glass. Then return and fill the flute with additional champagne. Don't fill the glass more than three-quarters full.

When you toast your parents, you technically don't let the glasses touch each other, however many people unfortunately do "clink" glasses.

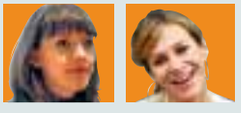
Keep your speech short, to the point and annunciate clearly, ask everyone to raise their glass and say something like "to our parents" and then have a sip and voila — your toast is done!

Let us know how it goes. If you write to me I will do my best to guide you and your group through the process!

Champagne should always be served cold. ISTOCK

Advice

Here's an idea: Try Google



TWO SISTERS
Andrea and Claire
Life@metronews.ca

I'm planning a holiday with my new boyfriend, so I asked my old boyfriend for a recommendation because I want to go to an area he introduced me to (we dated long-distance six years ago). Our relationship was brief and he's been in a long-term relationship for a few years now, and I've been supportive and happy for him — and yet he got annoyed at me for considering a holiday in his area with my new boyfriend! Is it me, or is he a childish twit? Hmmph

Andrea: Dear Girl Needs Tour Guide, I'm going to shock you here, but there's a little thing called the internet. On this "web," you can find great advice on where to go and what to do in virtually any city. Isn't that amazing? In the past we all had to ask our ex-boyfriends what they liked to do because it was probably what our current boyfriends would want to do as well.

Why create new, romantic memories, when you could relive old ones in a friendly game of "deal with my baggage?"

OK, I'll stop being mean here, but asking your ex for advice was a little insensitive. He doesn't own the city, but it doesn't mean you have to rub it in his face that you're a globe-trotting hottie with a new love in tow. Happy travels!

Claire: Dear Hmmph
I'm not sure whether you should be astounded that he actually cares enough to be offended so many years later, or annoyed that he should make this about him (which might just be categorized under "twit-like"). I'm surprised he has a problem with a little friendly tour-guiding — especially if you've stayed in touch regularly enough to know that he's in a new and happy relationship, but since he does, tease him about it to keep things light, and move on. And take it as a compliment to your enduring awesomeness.

And yes, try that internet thing. It's super useful.

Brown leads way on Kings' journey to promised land

Kings captain Dustin Brown reacts after his controversial hit on Phoenix's Michal Rozsival in overtime of Game 5 of the Western Conference final last week. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Regular-season trade rumours propelled L.A. captain to take his game to another level

If Dustin Brown stands up in the Los Angeles locker-room before the Stanley Cup final opener Wednesday night and delivers a stirring, emotional speech, his teammates won't know how to react.

"Well, he's not a rah-rah guy," veteran Kings defenceman Matt Greene said. "We don't have too many of those guys in the room. But he knows how to lead, and he does it by example."

Brown prefers showing to telling, whether it's with a timely goal or a bruising hit. The Los Angeles captain's playoff performance has demonstrated something quite clearly to the Kings: Behind his leadership they're capable of winning the franchise's first title.

Brown's hard-hitting, high-scoring play has been the biggest revelation of the post-season for the eighth-seeded Kings, but his quantum leap forward began during the regular season. Brown's run of stellar play started right after he was prominently featured in trade-deadline rumours linking him to Toronto and beyond, forcing the forward to wonder whether he would have to move his young family away from his only NHL team.

"Of course it's concerning to you, but I tried to just concentrate on what I could control," said Brown, the NHL's third-leading post-season scorer. "I just focused on hockey and getting this team to the playoffs, because I felt like we had a team that could do a lot if we got there and started playing together. We felt like we owed it to the fans here to take a shot instead of worrying."

The Kings' long-suffering fans are always near the forefront of Brown's mind when he discusses this playoff run. He realizes Los Angeles has enjoyed only one previous run to the final in 45 years, and he learned all about the Kings' paltry playoff success when he logged 431 regular-season games with the franchise before reaching his first post-season two years ago.

"This is the most successful we've been, but it's not where we want to end up," Brown said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raonic 'finally' gets win at French Open

Canadian Milos Raonic has already improved on last year's performance at the French Open.

Raonic powered past Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo of Spain 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, on Monday to reach the second round of the tournament.

The 19th seed from Thornhill, Ont., opened with a win on another sunny day at Roland Garros after losing in the first round a year ago to German Michael Berrer.

"It was good to finally win my first match here," said Raonic. "It was good to play a guy like him, who doesn't give you much. I had to go and win the match."

Raonic will next face American qualifier Jesse Levine, who beat Benjamin Becker of Germany 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

"I need to keep doing the right things and I need to work on my serving a bit," said Raonic. "I'll have to go out and play aggressive against him."

The Canadian dominated from the start, breaking his Spanish opponent five times with 12 aces.

Raonic ended with 58 winners against just 10 for Ramirez Hidalgo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dancevic pulls out

Canadian Frank Dancevic exited the French Open after less than 30 minutes, retiring due to a back issue.

- The Niagara Falls, Ont., native was down 4-0 to Martin Klizan of Slovakia when he pulled out of the first-round match.
- Dancevic said he was afraid of aggravating a back injury he suffered last month in Florida.

Canada's Milos Raonic awaits a serve from Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo on Monday in Paris. MATTHEW STOCKMAN/GETTY IMAGES

NEED A RIDE?
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4 SPORTS

Soccer

"Stay at home, watch it on TV. Don't even risk it ... because you could end up coming back in a coffin."

Former England defender Sol Campbell, warning fans in a BBC interview against travelling to Poland and Ukraine to watch the European Championship, claiming authorities are failing to tackle entrenched racism and violence in the countries.

NBA playoffs

Bosh's return still up in air

Chris Bosh is taking steps toward returning to the Miami lineup, though it remains unclear when the Heat will actually see their star forward in uniform again. Bosh, who has been sidelined since straining an abdominal muscle in Game 1 of Miami's second-round series against Indiana, did what the Heat called a "very light" on-court workout Sunday. Coach Erik Spoelstra said there's no target date for his return. The Heat took on the Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference final on Monday night. Go to metronews.ca/sports for more coverage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Montreal Canadiens GM Marc Bergevin continued to round out his front office with the hiring of Scott Mellanby as director of player personnel on Monday. Scan the code for the story.

MLB. Struggling Phillies await word on Halladay

Now all the Philadelphia Phillies and their fans can do is wait. For another day, at least.

The Phillies say they will send Roy Halladay to see a doctor Tuesday, two days after he came out of a start due to a sore right shoulder. On Monday, the team was determining where and when, exactly, their ace right-hander will be examined.

Halladay first started to feel discomfort in last Tuesday's start against Washington, but pitched through it. He cut back on throwing between starts, but it didn't help and he left after two innings against St. Louis on Sunday.

Halladay started the season his usual dominant way, holding the Pittsburgh Pirates to two hits in eight innings of a 1-0 win. Everything seemed normal until he blew a 6-0 lead and was pulled after eight runs in 5 1/3 innings against Atlanta on May 2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another level in NL

As good as Roy Halladay was in most of his 12 seasons in Toronto, he has been even better since coming to Philadelphia.

- In 2010 and 2011, he topped 200 strikeouts both seasons and struck out more than six batters for every one he walked.

MLB

Blue Jays call up left-hander Laffey

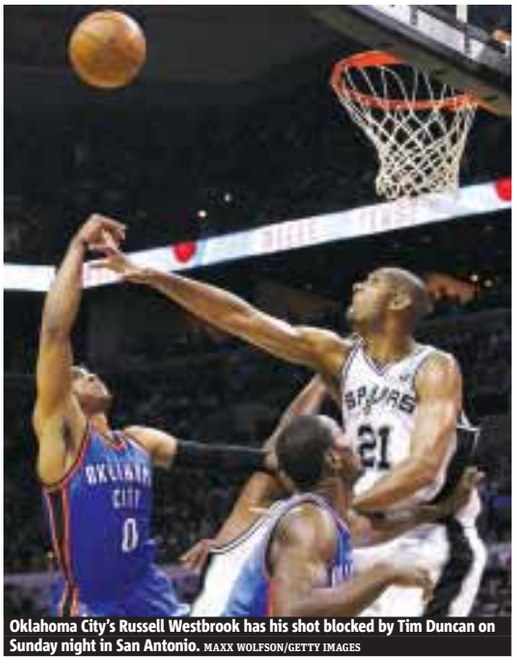
Aaron Laffey was recalled by the Toronto Blue Jays from Triple-A on Monday. Right-hander Chad Beck was optioned to make room for Laffey. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Manny might join A's this week

Oakland manager Bob Melvin said it's a "50-50" chance Manny Ramirez will join the A's when his drug ban expires on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spurs at their best when playing with 'nasty' edge



Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook has his shot blocked by Tim Duncan on Sunday night in San Antonio. MAXX WOLFSON/GETTY IMAGES

NBA. San Antonio on verge of 20-game win streak in West finals

Gregg Popovich's "I want some nasty!" is fast becoming the catchphrase of the NBA playoffs. It's eminently quotable, brash and an overnight splash.

In other words, it's everything the veteran-led San Antonio Spurs are not.

They've also heard far worse in timeouts from the NBA coach of the year, who bellowed his now-famous and fuming marching orders that jump-started a fourth-quarter rally, extended a history-matching winning streak to 19 and left Oklahoma City stunned heading into Game 2 of the Western Conference finals on Tuesday night.

"You've got to watch Pop — he's good at turning that microphone on and off," Spurs forward Stephen Jackson said Monday. "You don't hear some of the stuff he says."

All the Thunder mostly heard Monday were questions about their costly collapse down the stretch.

Oklahoma City started the fourth quarter leading — a rare feat against the Spurs in the 47 days since their last loss. Going up 2-0 would put the Spurs among just three other teams in NBA history with winning streaks of 20 games or longer.

It would also break the record for longest winning streak extended in the playoffs.

"We really don't care," guard Manu Ginobili said. "We are close — seven games — from accomplishing something way better than a streak." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"You can't give up a 30-point quarter in a playoff game and expect to win."

Oklahoma City's Derek Fisher. The Thunder were actually outscored 39-27 by the Spurs in the fourth quarter of Game 1.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings & Reunions

68th Anniversary of D-Day Landing!
The First Hussars Association will be holding an open house & reunion from June 1st-3rd. We welcome all former Hussars, their families & the public to this event. Open house from 11:00am-5:00pm Saturday June 2nd at Wolseley Barracks, 701 Oxford St, East. The D-Day Parade, in Victoria Park, on June 3rd at 11am. Contact us through Facebook "1st Hussars Reunion" or call Jonathan Kisslinger at 519-686-9409 for more info.

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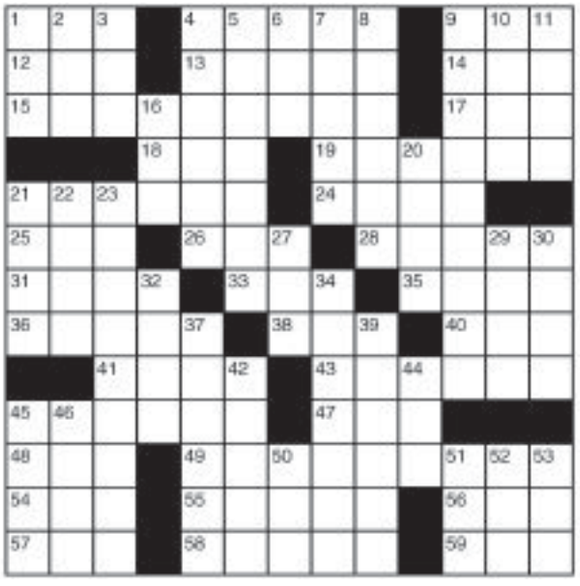
Crossword

Across

1 Kreskin's claim, briefly
4 Wanders
9 Aware
12 Boudreau of baseball
13 Otherwise
14 Can. neighbour
15 1957 Astaire movie
17 Crafty
18 Corn spike
19 Chops into small bits
21 Reflective power
24 Grad
25 Romanian money
26 Overactor
28 Flounder through puddles
31 Token of defiance
33 Papa
35 Elbow counterpart
36 Examine ore
38 Affirmative
40 Blunder
41 Support group?
43 Game participant
45 Sunday meal
47 Science workplace
48 Thither
49 Bees' structure
54 A billion years
55 Hackneyed
56 Retainer
57 Firmament
58 Handle the helm
59 Adipose tissue

Down

1 Sprite
2 Old French coin
3 Bit of wordplay
4 Capital of Saudi Arabia
5 On unpaved areas
6 Literary collection
7 Starbucks flavour
8 Pilfers
9 Bribe of a sort
10 Gilligan's home
11 Picks up the check
16 Born
20 Pout
21 Plankton component
22 Meadows
23 Thorn in Elmer Fudd's side
27 Spring time
29 Withered
30 Munich mister
32 Deserve
34 Use up
37 America's Cup contenders
39 Buffy, to vampires
42 Concise
44 Regis' network
45 Tournament situations
46 Chess piece
50 Never, in Nuremberg
51 Vacationing
52 — culpa
53 Wager



Sudoku

8	9			6		1		3
		6						8
5					4		2	
		8	9		1			
6				3				7
			6		2	9		
	7		5					2
4						3		
3		2		4			5	1

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	1	5	2	8	9	6	4	7
9	4	6	3	7	5	8	2	1
2	8	7	6	4	1	9	3	5
8	2	9	5	6	3	7	1	4
6	5	3	4	1	7	2	8	9
4	7	1	9	2	8	5	6	3
7	6	4	1	5	2	3	9	8
1	3	8	7	9	6	4	5	2
5	9	2	8	3	4	1	7	6

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

TW F JFVQRLFCX MFUQXVXU TR LHZCJXAXJN ATUXQ FVQ UXFQN WHU KXQ, NHE ZTMIA RFN IX'R KERIXQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A WOODLAND DEITY HAD TO CHOOSE ONE PREFERRED DAY OF THE WEEK, WOULD IT PICK SATYR-DAY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals H

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Don't focus too much on work today. Give yourself time off from your chores and give yourself permission to have fun.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Call it as you see it today, even if it means offending someone you have feelings for.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Passion planet Pluto will stir your emotions today and there may be times when your feelings get a bit extreme.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. What's done is done and cannot be undone, and the sooner you let go of the past and focus on the future the better.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. If you find yourself caught between rival factions today you must get yourself out of the firing line as quickly as possible.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. If you believe in what you are doing then today's Sun-Pluto link won't have any effect on you.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You just know that some seriously good opportunities are coming your way. Don't waste them.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Today's somewhat negative influences will make minor details look more important than they really are.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Some things are important and some things don't matter. Do you know how to tell the difference?

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You seem to be making things difficult for yourself for no good reason.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. If anyone needs a helping hand or a shoulder to cry on today you will be there in a flash. But don't get so caught up in their woes that you lose sight of what is important for you. Your feelings matter too.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. The planets warn there is a danger you will arrive at a conclusion about someone on no more than hearsay evidence, which could turn them against you. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Can you get my agent on the phone? I want to know if they are making a new star trek, I want to be cast as the new Geordi LaForge." -Crystal
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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